(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps to be taken by Government to help them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The National Commission for Women has submitted a draft Bill titled "Offences (by Acid) Act, 2008" which provides for monetary compensation and rehabilitation of Victims of Acid Attack.

(b) The proposed Bill has the following objectives:-

* To classify acid attack as a separate and most heinous form of offence.
* To assist the victim of acid attack by way of providing medical treatment, social and psychological support.
* To provide legal support to the victim.
* To arrange rehabilitation through mechanisms/ schemes taking into account the specific needs of the victim.
* To support regulation and control and sale of acid and other corrosive substances.

(c) No data is available to conclude that there is lack of employment opportunities for victims of acid attacks.

(d) Does not arise.

Findings of NFHS-III

308. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the detailed findings of the latest NFHS-III, regarding 'Domestic Violence' and 'Child Marriage' in India/ States;

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) what remedial follow-up action has been taken;

(d) how alarming is the above scenario, State-wise; and

(e) whether Government agrees with the findings that marriage of minor girls and domestic violence are rampant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (d) Detailed findings of NFHS-III are posted on the website of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare *viz. www.mohfw.nic.in*

(b), (c) and (e) The Government is aware of prevalence of Domestic Violence and Child Marriage in the country. In order to protect the rights of women who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family and for matters connected therewith, a legislation "The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005" (No. 43 of 2005) was enacted and brought into force *w.e.f.* 26th October, 2006.

In order to prohibit child marriages and to make the provisions of the Act more effective and punishment more stringent for offenders, a new legislation "The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006" (No. 6 of 2007) was enacted and notified on 11th January, 2007.

Also awareness generation and advocacy measures are continuously being undertaken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in this connection.

Legislation for criminal indulging in sexual exploitation of women and minor girls

†309. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to make any stringent legislation to deal with the criminals indulging in sexual exploitation and various other types of harassment of women and minor girls, and also to stop such crimes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 is the premier legislation for preventing trafficking of persons including women and children for commercial sexual exploitation. The Act is now proposed to be further amended to impose more stringent penalties for traffickers and other perpetrators of the crime and also delete those provisions which result in re-victimization of the victim. The proposed Amendments are being processed for approval by competent authorities.

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PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-clause (a) of clause (2) of article 123 of the Constitution, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 (No.8 of 2008) dated the 13th October, 2008. [Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 8962/08]

Notification of the Ministry of Finance

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, together with Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.